

REMARKS

This is an amendment under 37 CFR §1.116. The purpose of this amendment is to put the claims in condition for allowance. Since this response is being filed within two months of the mailing date of the final rejection, a notice of allowance or an advisory action is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-13, 18-19, 21-27, and 29-30 are in this application. Claims 1-7, 14-17, 20, and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 8-9, 11, 13, 18-19, 23, and 29 have been amended. Claims 8, 10, and 12 have been allowed. In addition to the amendments discussed below, claim 8 was also amended to rearrange the limitations to remove a redundant limitation.

The Examiner rejected claims 7, 17, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Drynan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,197,682). As noted above, claims 7, 17, and 28 have been cancelled.

The Examiner objected to claims 9, 11, 13, 18, 19, 21-27 and 29-30, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9, 11, 13, 18, 19, 23, and 29 have been amended to be in independent format, and are believed to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 21-22 and 24 have not been amended as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 19. Claims 25-26 have not been amended as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 18. Claim 27 has not been amended as this claim depends directly from claim 19. Claim 30 has not been amended as this claim directly depends from claim 11.

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In addition, applicant requests that the Examiner initial and return to applicant a copy of the Form 1449 filed (with Certificate of Mailing) on October 4, 2006.

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116,
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED

Atty. Docket No. 100-18111
(P05269-D01-F1)